

**EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN  
Hancock Lake Dam**

UPDATE

TOWN CHAIRMAN

The purpose of this EAP is to protect public safety and provide emergency information in the event of a failure of Hancock Lake Dam, and to maintain and operate Hancock lake dam for the benefit of the residents and the public.

**Description of Dam**

The Hancock Lake Dam is located approximately 14 miles west of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Rice creek and Trout Creek flow into Hancock lake and Little Rice Creek flows out of the lake. The Hancock Lake dam was built in 1929 of reinforced concrete and the Oneida Lake Road went over it at that time. The dam went through a rehabilitation project in 1989. It is a fixed crest, run of the river dam with no gates. Since then Oneida Lake road has been moved just south west of the dam and two large culverts were installed under the road. The dam is owned by the Town of Woodboro.

The dam failure defined in this EAP is for a failure event with a rare chance of occurrence. Publication of this report does not reflect upon the safety of the Hancock Lake Dam.

**Hazard Rating!**

The Hancock Lake Dam is a low hazard.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

1. An observer of dam failure emergency should contact the Oneida County Sheriff by calling 911. The Sheriff's office will then contact the Oneida County Emergency Management Director, the Oneida County Highway Commission, the Woodboro Town Chairman, and the Wisconsin DNR.
2. The inundation map and points of interest downstream from the Hancock Lake Dam after dam failure are shown on the attached map. No map attached – an inundation map was not prepared because the dam's low hazard rating was based on all of the land that would be subject to inundation, at least to the point of convergence with the dam non-existent 100-year flood, is under state or county ownership. The top priority in case of a dam failure is the notification of the residents of Gary Lake. It is also important to point out that Oneida Lake Road is higher than the crest of the dam, and if the dam failed, Oneida Lake Road would act as a second dam. The structural integrity of the road embankment will be critical to holding back the dam failure flood surge or potentially sending a worse surge down to Gary Lake. Coordination with the Highway Department will be vital.

The Oneida County Sheriff or a member of his staff should notify these residents in person if possible. Other possible sources of communication include the telephone, sheriff's P.A. system, and local media.

## NOTIFICATION FLOW CHART AND TELEPHONE LIST

### OBSERVER

Oneida County Sheriff  
715 369 6144 or 911

Down Stream Resident  
Kurt Zalewski  
715 282 6889

Oneida County Emergency Management Director  
Ken Kortendorf  
715 369 6144

Woodboro Town Chairman  
Kurt Zalewski  
715 282 6889

Oneida County Highway Commissnor  
Nick Scholtes  
715 369 6144

Wisconsin Emergency Management 24-Hour Toll Free Hotline:  
1-800-943-003

DNR Duty Officer:  
(608)576-5358/Pager (608)376-9049

Local DNR Dam Safety Contact – Terry Cummings:  
(715)365-8938 office  
(715) 362-2187 home

DNR State Dam Safety Engineer – Bill Sturtevant:  
(608)266-8033

Northeast Wisconsin Regional Emergency Manager – Rob Rude:  
(715)845-9517

## **REENTRY/RECOVERY**

Reentry should be controlled by the Oneida County Sheriffs Department. The Highway Department should inspect culverts, highways, and bridges of the Little Rice Creek downstream of the dam to check for washouts or other dangerous conditions. This includes inspection of Oneida Lake Road and its culverts. A general surveillance of the area downstream from the dam should also be performed by the Sheriff. Photographs should be taken and a log of observed damages should be kept.

Sources of highway repair material and equipment may be obtained by contacting the Oneida County Highway Department and the Town of Woodboro.

## **NORMAL PREVENTATIVE ACTION**

The dam will be checked periodically by the Town of Woodboro and the Hancock Lake Association to minimize a chance that hazardous conditions may develop.

Observers of the following problems, which could lead to dam failure, should contact the Town Of Woodboro.

- (1) Abnormally large rainfall.
- (2) Slumping or sloughing of the embankment.
- (3) Excessive erosion on the embankment or below the spillway.
- (4) Piping or boils in the embankment.
- (5) Excessive seepage or cloudy seepage from the embankment.
- (6) Settling or cracking in the embankment.
- (7) Large cracks or noticeable movement of the concrete spillway or abutments.
- (8) Failure of gate operation mechanisms.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**

The Town Of Woodboro is the owner of the dam and is responsible for its maintenance, operation, and inspections. Oneida County is responsible for downstream zoning.